LAFAYETTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lafayette, California

BULLETIN Vol. II No. 1 MARCH 1972

A most fascinating program is planned for our MARCH 14, MEETING at the Town Hall in Lafayette at 8:00 PM. This is a joint meeting of the LAFAYETTE, MORAGA and ORINDA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES and is the first of three meetings that will be held during the year. Each meeting is to be hosted by one of the SOCIETIES and our turn is the March meeting. The program is "BLACK HERITAGE OF THE EAST BAY and CALIFORNIA", and it will be divided into two sections. MR. and MRS. EUGENE LASARTEMAY of Berkeley will present the first section, "BLACK HERITAGE OF THE EAST BAY". MRS. LASARTEMAY'S family came to Alameda in 1880. MR. LASARTEMAY came to the area in 1923 and has the distinction of being the first Black Man to sail out of the Port of San Francisco as a licensed marine engineer. Both MR. and MRS. LASARTEMAY are members of the EAST BAY NEGRO HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The second portion of the program will be presented by MRS. BETSY WILLCUTS, a member of the LAFAYETTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, and MRS. MARILYN GOELLER of Walnut Creek, both Docents of the OAKLAND MUSEUM. They will discuss "BLACK HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA". Please come and bring a friend.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

The "finger lickin' good" pot luck dinner in January at the American Legion Hall was a happy occasion for the 100 people who attended. LOUIS STEIN'S slides and commentary evoked memories of early Lafayette for a number of old time residents who were present.

Pictures of early days from our file of nearly 300 pictures continue to be exhibited at special events, such as, the CONCOURS de ELEGANCE at STANLEY SCHOOL, the pot luck dinner, and with displays in the LANDMARKS ROOM at the FEDERAL SAVINGS and LOAN.

Speaking of the LANDMARKS ROOM, be sure to see the LAFAYETTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S current display in the room at 3614 Mt. Diablo Blvd. On exhibit are handcrafted articles from FUTURES EXPLORED, a community oriented program for the handicapped. Some of the beautiful items on exhibit are afghans, wall hangings, jewelry and candles.

Of interest to all will be moving pictures depicting the early history of CONTRA COSTA COUNTY from 1850 to about 1904 which are being compiled by a student of OXFORD UNIVERSITY, ENGLAND, under the auspices of DR. FLOYD MARCHUS, Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools. These moving pictures, it is understood, will be available to any group of people or the schools in Contra Costa County wishing to borrow them.

FATHER WILLIAM ABELOE, a member of our Board of Directors, is now the pastor of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH in EL CERRITO. Although EL CERRITO isn't that far away, FATHER ABELOE'S duties have increased with the new church assignment and he will not be able to devote as much time to the society as he has in the past. We are very sorry to lose his able assistance but we do wish him well.

At the pot luck dinner in January, FATHER ABELOE was presented with a Life Membership by our president, DR. JACK HANSEN, as a way of expressing our appreciation for all his very knowledgeable help.

ARTIFACTS FOUND AND UNFOUND

FOUND---GOOD TEMPLARS HALL BELL: The hall (1870 circa) stood on the hill which was removed when the Union Service Station was built across from the Park Theater. The bell is now hanging in THE METHODIST CHURCH belfry on Moraga Road.

UNFOUND---THE SECOND GRIST MILL WHEEL: The companion wheel from ELAM BROWN'S grist mill which is mounted in the PLAZA PARK has been lost for many years. LOUIS STEIN states that he has been told the lost wheel was used to cap an unused well hole in HAPPY VALLEY, no one knows where. Has someone found it???

UNFOUND---BENJAMIN SHREVE'S SAFE: The large safe (1870 circa) with SHREVE'S name embossed on it disappeared from the PIONEER STORE in 1940 when VINCE LOMBARDI, the proprietor, moved to a new location. MR. LOMBARDI knows nothing about the safe, as well as the old wall clock in the store.

AND NOW DOWN TO BUSINESS!!!

1972 dues for the LAFAYETTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY are now payable. The dues remain the same:

$ 2.50 for Student Memberships
$ 5.00 for Family Memberships
$ 10.00 for Business Memberships ALL DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE
$100.00 for Life Memberships

Please mail your check to the LAFAYETTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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